Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 NEA-10 ADP-00 RSR-01 AID-20 CEA-02

CIAE-00 COME-00 EUR-25 FRB-02 INR-09 IO-12 NSAE-00

RSC-01 OPIC-12 TRSE-00 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 SAL-01

OMB-01 AGR-20 /148 W

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R 150953 Z MAR 73 FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1456 AMEMBASSY DACCA AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI AMEMBASSY ROME

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EO 11652: ADS DECLAS 12-31-73

TAGS: EGEN

SUBJ: JUTE INTERNATIONAL

REF: A. STATE 037964 B. GENEVA 864

- 1. PER PARA 4 REF. A EMBOFF CALLED MARCH 14 ON MR. SATA-PORT KAVITANOND. SECRETARY OF COMMITTEE OF JUTE AND JUTE PRODUCTS PROMOTION IN RTG NATIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD (NEDB) AND CHIEF OF RTG DELEGATION TO JANUARY DACCA MEETING. SATAPORN EXPLAINED THAT CURRENT RTG INTERNAL CONSIDERATION OF JUTE INTERNATIONAL MATTER IS AT SUBCOM-MITTEL LEVEL OF HIS COMMITTEE. NEVERTHELESS, HE HOPED SUBCOMM-ITTEE' S REPORT WOULD BE APPROVED BY FULL COMMITTEE AND REACH CABINET FOR CONSIDERATION AND ACTION BY END OF MARCH.
- 2. SUBCOMMITTEE STUDYING MATTER AS IT AFFECTS THREE GROUPS: DOMESTIC PRODUCERS, DOMESTIC CONSUMERS, AND EX-PORTERS OF RAW AND PROCESSED JUTE. STRONG ARGUMENTS BEING MOUNTED THAT FIRST TWO GROUPS WOULD BENEFIT LITTLE FROM THAI MEMBERSHIP AND ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES REQUIRED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THEREFOR (\$300,000-- WHICH IS MORE THAN RTG BUDGETS NOW TO HELP THESE TWO GROUPS) MIGHT BE BETTER SPENT ON DOMESTIC PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS. SATAPORN ALSO MADE REFERENCE TO UN- SPONSORED SEED PROGRAM TO WHICH RTG CONTRIBUTED BUT OBTAINED LITTLE RETURN COMPARED WITH SUCH NON- CONTRIBUTORS AS JAPAN AND ROC.

BOTH SATAPORN AND MR. SUTHEE NATVARATAT, DG FOREIGN TRADE DEPT., MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, EXPRESSED SUPPORT IN PRINCIPLE TO RTG MEMBERSHIP FOLLOWING LINE OF REASONING IN PARA 4 REFTEL BUT SAID FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS WOULD BE PARAMOUNT IN EVENTUAL RTG DECISION. SATAPORN STATED KEY ELEMENT WILL BE HOW MUCH RTG MEMBERSHIP WILL BENEFIT LOCAL EXPORTERS OF RAW JUTE AND JUTE PRODUCTS. HIS CURRENT ASSESSMENT IS THAT CHANCES FOR CABINET APPROVAL OF RTG PARTICIPATION ARE NO BETTER THAN FIFTY- FIFTY.

4. SATAPORR SAID INDIANS WERE UPSET THAT TECHNICAL CENTER WOULD BE IN DACCA NOT CALCUTTA WHERE THEY ALREADY HAVE IMPORTANT JUTE RESEARCH FACILITY. HE ALSO MADE POINT THAT DEVELOPED CONSUMING COUNTRIES WERE NOT SUPPORTING PROJECT TO ANY GREAT EXTEND AS YET. HE EXPECTS UNDP/ IBRD TEAM (PARA 5, REF B) TO VISIT BANGKOK IN MID- APRIL. UNGER

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^{***} Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

^{***} Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

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